

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 EA-11 NIC-01 /149 W

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R 181450Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4647

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, CZ

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV TRIP TO PRAGUE

1. RFE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ADDRESSEES
MAY HAVE CONCERNING PURPOSE OF ZHIVKOV'S SUDDEN OCTOBER 18 VISIT
TO PRAGUE, SINCE BULGARIAN EXHIBIT HE IS OSTENSIBLY GOING TO OPEN
HARDLY JUSTIFIED TRIP. RFE ANALYSTS SUGGEST THREE
POSSIBILITIES, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEE THOUGHTS:

2. WITH HUSAK SCHEDULED TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA SHORTLY, ZHIVKOV
MAY WISH TO CLARIFY BULGARIAN POSITION BEFORE HUSAK MEETS WITH
TITO. HOWEVER, FACT THAT BULGARIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE BOTH
BEEN SO CLOSELY ATTUNED TO SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WOULD SEEM TO
PRECLUDE ANY REAL DIFFERENCES.

3. HUSAK WAS APPARENTLY LAST MAJOR EAST EUROPEAN VISITOR TO
NORTH KOREA (LAST MAY OR JUNE), AND ZHIVKOV IS SCHEDULED TO
VISIT PYONGYANG WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. IF THERE IS ANY TRUTH
TO REPORTS THAT SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN CONVENING CONFERENCE
OF WORLD COMMUNIST PARTIES, SECURING NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION WOULD
HAVE HIGH PRIORITY. RFE ANALYSTS NOTE IN THIS REGARD THAT
BULGARIANS SEEM TO BE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEALING WITH

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THE MORE INDEPENDENT PARTIES, CITING RECENT BERLINGUER VISIT TO

BULGARIA AS EXAMPLE.

4. FINALLY, SINCE CZECH-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN POOR RECENTLY, ZHIVKOV'S VISIT TO PRAGUE MAY BE CONNECTED WITH HIS RECENT TRIP TO AUSTRIA. RFE CONSIDERS THIS POSSIBILITY LESS LIKELY THAN OTHER TWO, HOWEVER, SINCE THIS MATTER PROBABLY WOULD NOT REQUIRE QUICK TRIP. VALDES

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